

This is a comment re the pending ruling on media cross-ownership which is being criticized because of it's tendency to monopolize broadcast and print media ownership. I am opposed to the proposal to relax ownership rules because it opens the door to allow even more media concentration than we have already. This is unhealthy and even dangerous to a free society since it prevents minority voices in politics, the arts and sciences from being heard. Contrary to popular belief, monopolies thrive on government regulation and since broadcast media in particular is tightly controlled by the FCC, it's correct role is to protect the smaller, independent companies from being subsumed by the larger ones. The pernicious effects of such an outcome would be in the homogenization and thus, narrowing of the avenues of public discourse. Corporate policy will dictate which views can be expressed and those that are unpopular, unusual or deemed as too radical will be squelched in order to placate the advertisers. We will be diminished as a nation if our individual voices are silenced.